

PLAIN TRUTH:

OR, A

CANDID DETAIL

OF SOME

PROCEEDINGS

IN THE BUSINESS OF

NEAL AND LEWELLIN,

IN ANSWER TO THE

MISREPRESENTATIONS

OF A

RECENT PUBLICATION,

CALLED

AN AUTHENTIC NARRATIVE, &c.

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By J. W. BOYTON, M.D.

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*— audi alteram partem. —*

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D U B L I N:

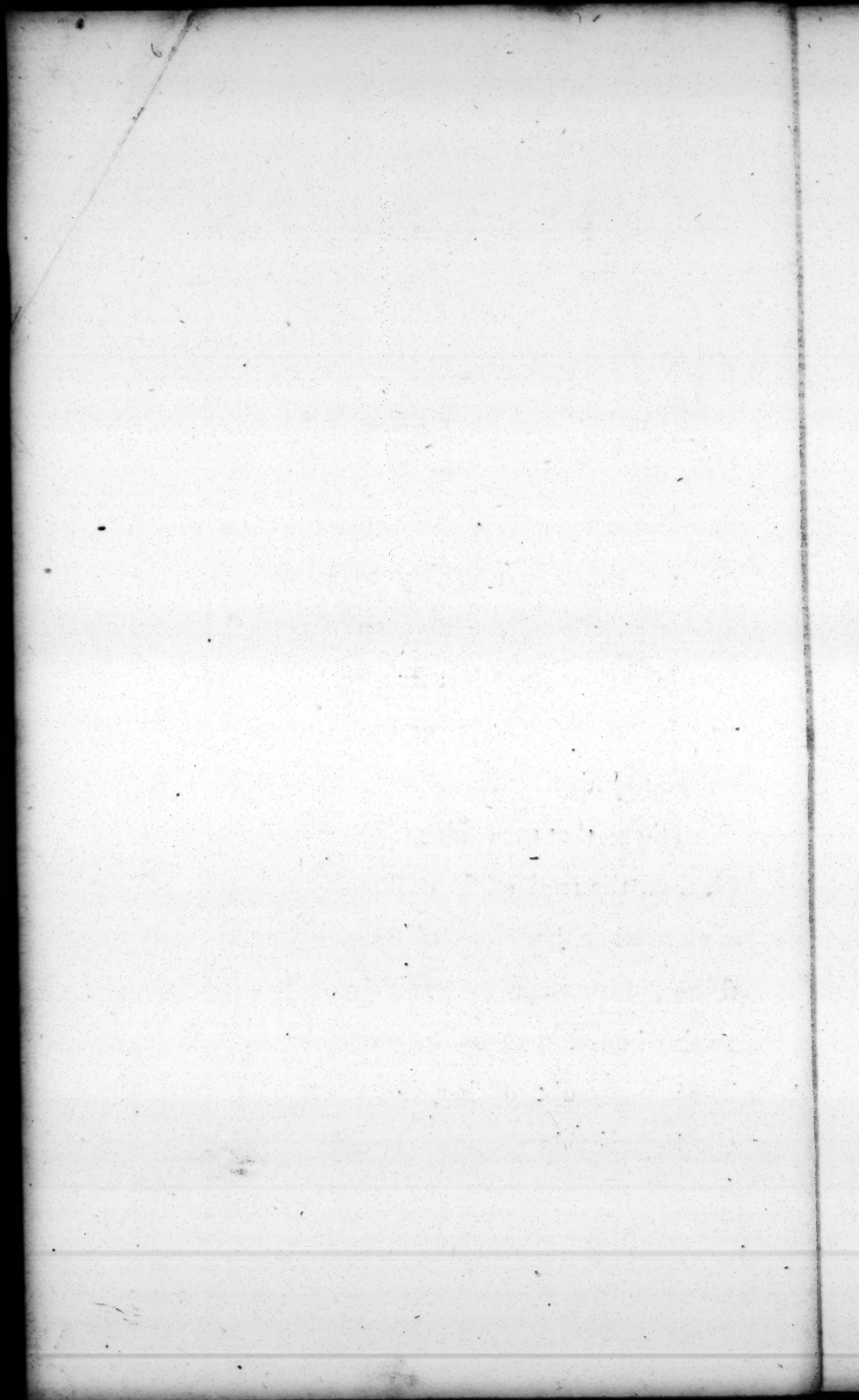
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**T**HE Author of the following Narrative, having nothing further in view than an explanation of his own conduct in the business of Neal and Lewellin, did not think it necessary to enter into argument on the subject, or any formal refutation of the Pamphlet frequently alluded to---he has stated facts, on which the Public are to judge. He at the same time assures them, that the evidence given by Mary Neal on the trial of Lewellin was not, as is asserted, either contradictory, or inconsistent, but such as perfectly to satisfy twelve honest men on their oaths, and to leave no doubt of her innocence on the mind of an able and upright Judge.



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## PLAIN TRUTH, &c.

**I**F the anonymous writer of what is called *an authentic Narrative of facts in the Trial and Proceedings of Neal and Lewellin*, had contented himself with bestowing encomiums on a certain Nobleman for the *truly laudable* part he had taken in that affair, whose sole motive must be “Humanity and a love of Justice, and whose presence at the trial was merely accidental,” I should not deem it by any means necessary for me to commit myself in print, or advance any thing that might, however remotely, tend to reflect on his veracity—far be from me a wish to pluck away the well earned laurels of so glorious a campaign; even tho’ Mary Neal had been introduced as a *reserve* to compleat the triumph, I should not have meddled, but have left her character at the mercy of a discerning world, and to the protection of a more able advocate; but finding my name obtruded on the

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public

public, with other very respectable names, evidently with a design to sanction falsehood and misrepresentation, and myself marked as one of the " sanguinary plotters of mischief, and no less sanguinary abettors of party virulence," I consider it a duty, which I owe my friends and my own character, to state the reasons that induced me to interest myself so particularly in favour of John Neal, and to detail those conversations and facts alluded to, and so grossly misrepresented in that part of the narrative, marked with inverted commas, and said to be given by *Autho-  
rity*. These, with a few transient observations, will, I am convinced, sufficiently illustrate this dark business, and remove any doubts, that could have arisen from the perusal of this *authorised narrative*.

I shall not rest the proofs of what I advance on bare assertion; for the truth of every declaration of mine, I pledge myself to the public, and appeal to any of those Gentlemen whom I shall particularly name, and mention to have been present at any of the conversations or transactions alluded to—Men of Character and Principle, with whom I am proud to have co-operated, in some measure, in rescuing oppressed poverty and unprotected innocence.

On the evening of Thursday the 6th of November, Mr. Sheriff Tweedy called on me, and, after apologising for the trouble, requested I would inform him of every particular relative to the business of Neal and Lewellin, of which he heard I was in full possession, having befriended Neal. The reason he assigned for the

the present enquiry was, that from report, from the asseverations of Mrs. Lewellin, and a declaration\* of Mr. Skeffington Hamilton, he was strongly disposed to believe Mrs. Lewellin innocent: That an application for mercy was intended, and these enquiries must be made as speedy as possible, the next day but one being appointed for her execution. The information which I gave him was literally as follows.

“ John Neal, whom I knew upwards of thirteen years, had been my hairdresser a long time in College; from my own knowledge of him, and from the opinions of those of my acquaintance whom he dressed, I had every reason to believe him strictly honest. That, about the beginning of April 1788, he called on me ap-

\* This declaration confirmed by the affidavit of a very respectable man goes to prove what Mary Neal's advocates never doubted, that *literally* there was no backroom to the house; but an accurate description of the house and of the furniture of this very room will enable the reader to judge of Mary Neal's idea of a backroom, and of Mrs. Lewellin's solemn asseverations just before her *expected* execution. There was a door at either end of the house, with two windows between them, as described by Mr. Hamilton, and a window over one of the doors. One only of those doors was in general use, on the entrance by which, a door opened from a small hall into a room which was mostly used as a kitchen, sometimes a sitting room; from this kitchen, a door opened into the smaller room, miscalled by Neal a backroom. The furniture of this was a field bedstead without curtains, a spider table which stood at the foot of the bed, between it and the door opening into Blackmoor-yard, but which was seldom used; a chair, sometimes two, stood against the partition wall. As to the neighbours not being alarmed by cries proceeding from such a house as Lewellin's, it is too futile to deserve an answer.

parently much agitated, and informed me his daughter had been abused at the house of a Mrs. Lewellin in Blackmoor-yard, and he believed disordered, requesting at the same time I would advise him how to proceed. My advice was instantly to apply to some gentleman of the law, and I mentioned my worthy and particular friend Counsellor Collis of South Cumberland-street, one of his customers, and to whom Neal had been known ten or twelve years: that he would point out the steps to be pursued, and if the child were disordered, I would procure her admission into some Hospital. Examinations were immediately lodged against Lewellin, and she was committed to gaol. Here the matter rested some time, when one evening I was exceedingly surprised on receiving a letter from Neal, dated at Newgate, to inform me, that he and his unfortunate wife [who with an infant child fell a martyr to this complicated scene of villainy] were dragged from their bed at an unseasonable hour of the night, and lodged in goal on a charge of robbery. I made it my business to see Mr. Collis the next day to consult with him some means of extricating them, but notwithstanding his exertions, and a firm conviction on both our minds of this being a false and malicious charge, [as afterwards appeared] we could not procure their enlargement: they were obliged to remain in gaol for trial at the Quarter-Session.

In some short time after this, I received a letter from Mr. Collis, informing me that he feared he must be under the necessity of leaving town  
before

before Lewellin's trial, and referring me for assistance to our common friend Counsellor White of York-street. On the morning of Saturday June 28, the day on which the Commission of Oyer and Terminer opened, I received a letter from John Neal to remind me that unless I exerted myself, his friend Mr. Collis having, he feared, left town, Mrs. Lewellin must be acquitted for want of prosecution; telling me also where the child was secreted from the emissaries of Edgworth, who were very active in pursuit of her. He also mentioned that I need not go to Court till Monday the 30th, as he was told the trial could not be brought forward sooner: but dreading some new stroke of *cleverness* from the party of Lewellin, I went to Court instantly, and, not totally disappointed in my apprehensions, found that she had brought on her trial among the first, but that the Judge had ordered it to stand over an hour or two, as nobody appeared to the prosecution. I directly went off to the House of Industry where the child had remained, concealed and protected by Mr. Hunt the apothecary of the house; but I found she had been sent the day before to a place of safety on Lazer's-hill, with a view of eluding the pursuers, who had concerted a plan to arrest her in Church-street as she passed from the House of Industry to the Four Courts. I sent a coach for her with three of the beadles of the house to protect her, desiring this worthy Mr. Hunt [who was to be calumniated and insulted because he stood forward, and declared his sentiments with a firmness not to be shaken  
by

by threats or promises] to follow me immediately, as I judged his presence would be absolutely necessary.

“ On my return to Court, I addressed myself to the Judge, briefly stating the reasons why nobody had appeared to the prosecution, and soliciting his Lordship’s interference. The gaoler was ordered to bring up the father and mother of the child, and a party of the Police was ordered to attend me in protecting her, when I mentioned to Sir Samuel Bradstreet my apprehensions of an arrest on her way to Court. Returning with these Police men from Lazer’s-hill, I met Mr. Collis, who, by some fortunate accident, had been detained that day in town, and brought him to Court: Here we met Mr. White, to whom I had time to relate only the few circumstances mentioned to me by the child’s father, when the trial was called on.”

After giving Mr. Tweedy this succinct account, I told him I was much pleased with his application to me, as it might be the means of freeing me of some uneasiness, which I felt at being concerned in that business. Reports of the child’s previous guilt, mentioned with confidence in companies where I happened to be present, and in my own family, regret at my having by any means contributed to the condemnation of an unfortunate *female*, particularly in favour of a child whose appearance was said to militate strongly against her, operated on me, and nearly induced me to forego my former opinion of Mary Neal’s innocence. That however, as I had been informed there could be little  
doubt

doubt of Lewellin obtaining a pardon, a person of rank, as was said, exerting all his influence in her favour, my mind was a great deal easier; but that I would certainly have joined in application for mercy, had I known how, or to whom, I should apply. The High Sheriff immediately replied, that a nobleman was to call on him in an hour or two, who was in possession of facts, as his Lordship declared, that would fully prove the child's antecedent prostitution, and *requested* I would meet that nobleman at his house in Crow-street at eight o'clock, the hour appointed by his Lordship. I arrived a little before his Lordship, to whom I was introduced by the High Sheriff, as a *principal person concerned in favour of Mary Neal, who, doubting her innocence, would have applied for a mitigation of Mrs. Lewellin's sentence, had he known the manner of applying.* At his Lordship's desire, I repeated the particular circumstances which I mentioned to Mr. Sheriff Tweedy about *two hours before*, adding the causes of my doubts, not "change of opinion." These were, the declaration of one of the surgeons who examined the child; the connection of Mary Neal [as I that night understood] with a married man; and lastly the declaration of the hairdresser of a gentleman of my acquaintance. A conversation that happened in my family with the child, whom I brought home immediately after the trial, was mentioned to his Lordship; this his Lordship was informed next morning, on being more minutely enquired into, made decidedly in favour of Mary Neal. The nobleman having applauded my

my candour, and the rectitude of my intentions through all the business, declared that he was in possession of facts, which would incontrovertibly prove Mary Neal to have been a common prostitute; and asked, if that were done, could I have any objection to accompany his Lordship in an application for mercy, as his Lordship deemed me no improper person on such an occasion, having been so much concerned in the prosecution of Lewellin: I answered that "I should think it incumbent on me to accompany his Lordship, if required."

The High Sheriff then mentioned that Alderman Exshaw, who had particularly interested himself in favour of Neal's family, entertained some doubts of the child's innocence, his Lordship requested Mr. Tweedy to call on the Alderman, with his Lordship's compliments, that he wished him to meet his Lordship the next day at the High Sheriff's house at twelve o'clock. The reasons why Alderman Exshaw came to be so particularly engaged in the business, were these: Mary Neal's examinations against Lewellin had been sworn before him, the next Divisional Justice to Blackmoor-yard—he had also been present at Lewellin's trial: these circumstances made me think him the most proper Coroner to whom I could apply, on receiving the following letter from Neal, the 2d day after the trial.

Honoured Sir,

The distress which has for some time past unhappily oppressed me, is now encreased by the melancholy

melancholy death of my poor wife, which I believe has greatly been hastened, if not altogether occasioned, by the cruel and inhuman treatment, which she received by this wretch Mrs. Lewellin, and another woman of the name of White. I humbly hope therefore, that your Honour will not desert me in this trying extremity: I am poor, and wretched, and naked, and unless your Honour will humanely assist me, I know not what will become of my poor wife or your distressed

humble servant

*Monday, June 30.*

JOHN NEAL.

This letter I carried to Alderman Exshaw, whose conduct in the business will best appear from a narrative which I here subjoin with his permission:

On Saturday June 28, Alderman Exshaw attending the Commission of Oyer and Terminer, as the duty of his office required, happened to go into Court as Mrs. Lewellin's trial came on, and was induced through mere curiosity to wait the event, not knowing any of the parties, except taking the examinations and committing Lewellin. He knew nothing of Dr. Boyton, with whom he was not at that time acquainted, having made a previous application to the Judge, and heard nothing more of the matter until the Monday following, when Mr. Thome\* of Fleet-street and Doctor Boy-

\* This gentleman I requested to accompany me to the Alderman, to whom I was not at that time known.

ton came to his office to inform him that Ann Neal, the mother of Mary, had died in prison, and that, as they had reason to believe her to have been ill treated, they required the Alderman as a Coroner to hold an inquest, and five o'clock in the evening was appointed accordingly. That in the mean time Dr. Boyton expressing a firm belief of the innocence of the Neals relative to the charge on which they had been committed, and the fruitless enquiries he had made to discover who had lodged the examinations against them, a Police man came forward and declared to the Alderman, that it was Nancy Molineaux, who under the name of Ann Poole, had sworn a robbery against John and Ann Neal before Alderman Moncrieffe: that he among other Police men was present. That he [Alderman Exshaw] struck with this declaration, and calling to mind the behaviour of this Nancy Molineaux, whom he had seen on the Saturday preceding, at the trial of Lewellin, swearing to the prostitution of Mary Neal, resolved to investigate the matter minutely; That he went directly to Court, and informed Sir Samuel Bradstreet of his suspicions, and of the death of Ann Neal: that he was directed by the Judge to enquire into it very particularly, and to report immediately, as the fate of Lewellin in a great measure depended upon the result of the enquiry. That calling to mind the declaration of the Police man, he immediately went in search of Ann Molineaux, whom after some time he was enabled to trace to Mrs. Lewellin's

ellin's house in Strand-street, where she was denied to him, but on searching the house, found her locked up in a small room. That on having her identified as the Ann Poole who had sworn the robbery against Neal and his wife, she was brought to his office, where she confessed what has since appeared on the trial of Edgworth. The next morning the Alderman waited on the Judge to inform him of the verdict of the inquest, as also of the confession of Ann Molineaux, and to request he would bail out John Neal, for whom Mr. Thome and Doctor Boyton offered themselves as sureties: that the man was accordingly enlarged, the Judge requiring only his own recognisance. That Alderman Warren a few days after, called on him, and requested he would wait on Mr. Sackville Hamilton, to inform him of the business, as the Marquis of Buckingham had intimated a desire to know the particulars of it, and if there was any foundation in the report of Mrs. Lewellin having ill treated the woman in prison. With which request he [Alderman Exshaw] complied, and related every thing literally and strictly as it has since appeared, at the same time informing him that nothing had been proved on the inquest to criminate Lewellin.

That the business rested here till the middle of September, when Mr. S. Hamilton sent for him [Alderman Exshaw], and informed him that it was his Excellency's pleasure that he should declare to Mrs. Lewellin his Excellency's determination of not extending mercy to her;  
on

on the Alderman observing to Mr. Hamilton, that it was unusual for a Magistrate to convey such a message, it was answered, that as he had been so active in the business, and so minute in his enquiries, the Lord Lieutenant thought it would come with greater weight from him. That he accordingly went to the goal, and delivered his Excellency's message, which she received with the greatest composure, not seeming to be at all affected by it, and requested permission of the Alderman to represent this message to a certain nobleman, whom she named, and who had befriended her through this business, and was exerting all his influence to save her. She at the same time solemnly protested her innocence, declaring that had she not relied on it, she could have bought off the witnesses: that when she was committed to goal, she was in possession of one hundred and one guineas, all which she gave her Attorney whom she named, to prove her innocence and support the expences of her trial: nor was it she said natural to suppose, that if such an affair had happened in her house she would conceal the man's name at the hazard of her own life. That these declarations had some weight with the Alderman, and induced him to call again on Mr. S. Hamilton, to represent what she asserted, and also her offer of making an affidavit of her innocence, which the Alderman refused to take, deeming it improper and illegal, coming from a person under sentence of death. He declared to Mr. Hamilton, that these circumstances had made a strong  
impression

impression on him, and requested he would state them to the Marquiss, which Mr. Hamilton promised. The Alderman heard nothing more of the business, until the 6th of November, when he received a message from Mr. Sheriff Tweedy, intimating a wish of a noble Lord that he would meet his Lordship and some gentlemen at his [the High Sheriff's] house the next day. That the Alderman thinking he had fully discharged his duty to all parties, resolved to have nothing farther to do in it, till Doctor Boyton called on him next morning, and informed him of the meeting of the preceding night, and of having then stated to his Lordship some doubts of Mary Neal's innocence, which doubts, he said, were now almost totally done away—he also mentioned a declaration of his Lordship, "that incontrovertible proofs of the child's guilt would be produced:" that then the Alderman on the requisition of Dr. Boyton, who insisted on the necessity of his presence, consented to accompany him to the house of the High Sheriff in Crow-street.

Having prevailed on the Alderman, as is affirmed on authority, to accompany me to his Lordship, I in the presence of him and Mr. Sheriff Tweedy declared to the nobleman, that I had been out since half past eight that morning, endeavouring to procure farther information, and to trace up those reports that had made any impression on me. I told his Lordship that I had not now a single doubt remaining, and that I firmly believed Mary

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Neal

Neal to be innocent. His Lordship asked how I had cleared up my doubts of the preceding night? I specified each of them, and the manner in which I cleared them up that morning. First my doubts proceeding from the reports of the hairdresser were totally done away by his own declarations that morning in presence of Alderman Exshaw: he affirmed that "he never circulated any reports of seeing Neal the hairdresser's daughter at the room of any gentleman in College; that a person whom he knew only by the name of Kitty, told him that a girl whom he had seen in her company in the College, was called Neal; and lastly that he had never seen the daughter of John Neal to know her." It is asserted that I told the nobleman that this Jack the hairdresser was one of those "who informed me Mary Neal was not good." I never told his Lordship any such thing; nor had I ever seen this hairdresser, at the time the conversation happened, in which he was mentioned.

2d. My next doubt as I told his Lordship was occasioned by the report of a connection between Mary Neal (as I understood) and the married man. I declared to his Lordship that I had that morning called on the gentleman from whom I received my information, and that he was ready to assure the nobleman, if necessary, I had mis-

\* John Neal the father declared to the noble Lord and the gentlemen in Great George's-street, that he believed Jack the hairdresser did know his daughter, as they lodged opposite each other; but Neal spoke only from belief, not certainty.

understood

understood him : it was Lewellin and not Neal he mentioned, but that a person (since dead and by whose direction, I am told, an affidavit was drawn up but not sworn to) had made some mention of a connection with Neal.

3d. The declaration of the surgeon, " that when he first examined the child, she did not shew that backwardness and reluctance which he would expect from a child of her age." This I cleared up in in the very words which Mr. Peile used to his Lordship in about an hour after at the House of Industry, viz. " that he was satisfied such behaviour proceeded merely from her having been repeatedly examined by the other surgeons of the house, two of whom were present ; and that her conduct while she remained in the House of Industry was such as effectually to remove any unfavourable impression, which her apparent want of modesty might at first have left on his mind."

This was the behaviour specified by me to his Lordship, but which this narrator says " cannot with decency be publicly mentioned." I wish this modest man, this man of such unparalleled delicacy, had considered how unpardonable and ungentlemanly it was to introduce in the very page where he pays such a tribute to decency, names that were mentioned to his Lordship in confidence, and which none but an anonymous writer would presume to make free with. I wish this honourable and candid person would allow me to prove the falsehood of his assertions

to him *vivâ voce*, and to assure him that the conversation alluded to had an effect the very reverse of what he states, as also to refer him for the truth of it, to a man of veracity, I mean the High Sheriff, who was present when I cleared up that particular circumstance to his Lordship.

After remaining some time at the house of the High Sheriff, some of us expressed a wish to know what these *incontrovertible* proofs were, of which intimation had been given the preceding night. Mr. S. who accompanied his Lordship through the business of this day, declared that a friend of his had *last night accidentally* gone into a house of ill fame (known by the name of the Straw Bagnio) in Drury-lane, and fortunately overheard two girls, Kitty Duff and Fanny Murray, talking over the business of Neal and Lewellin, and that on questioning them, they told so *consistent*, and so *satisfactory* a story as would be sufficient, he said, to convince every unprejudiced person of the guilt of Mary Neal, and that they would be with us immediately. Mr. F.\* *happening* to come in, he was asked "where are those girls you were to procure?" [I suppose *procure* meant no more than *bring forward*], he answered they were coming.—At length they arrived, and after much *entreaty*, told their story so plausibly and so consistently, that Alderman Exshaw and I declared if these facts which they

\* This gentleman appeared no farther on the business of that day.

related

related could be substantiated by the concurrent testimony of any *reputable* person, we would cheerfully join in soliciting mercy for the unhappy convict; the Alderman however knowing these girls in an official capacity, observed, that no reliance could be placed on any thing they affirmed; but that it would not be improper for us to hear what the child could say in her defence.

On our arrival at the House of Industry, to which we adjourned, we confronted Mary Neal and Fanny Murray, who was desired to repeat what she had to say against the child. Fanny Murray then declared in the presence of the noble Lord, Mr. Sheriff Tweedy, Mr. Alderman Exshaw, Surgeon Peile and me, that Mary Neal, on the first night of her admission into the House of Industry, spoke and acted in a manner too indecent to be made public; that she had been Mary Neal's bedfellow some time in the house, and that she was present when John Neal, and Ann Neal, since dead, came to visit their daughter; that in her (Fanny Murray's) presence, Neal the father said to his daughter, "Mary did you go quietly with the man?" that Mary answered, "I did;" on which the father immediately said, "if you say so, you will not hurt a hair of Lewellin's head, and if you do not hang her, I will transport you." For the truth of this, Fanny Murray referred us to the nurse of the ward in which the conversation

conversation happened; who, she affirmed, was present, as well at this, as at the former declarations and behaviour of Mary Neal the first night she was taken into the House of Industry. Before the nurse was called on to testify the truth of Murray's assertions, we made a very particular enquiry of the Matron of the House, and of every other reputable person in it, concerning the character of this nurse; we were given to understand that we might depend on any thing she asserted as she had always been strictly honest and sober. The nurse was then called in, and Fanny Murray acknowledged her to be the person alluded to. After Murray had again repeated the words and conversation before mentioned, the nurse was appealed to; she flatly contradicted Murray, and averred, that no such conversation ever happened: that Murray never had been Neal's bedfellow, even for a night; that her (Mary Neal's) behaviour and conversation on the first night of her admission into the house was perfectly modest, and that her demeanour, while she continued at Channel-Row, (almost eight months) was that of "an innocent, mere child." She also declared, that from a long acquaintance with Fanny Murray, she knew her to be a great liar, and not to be depended on: on this she was immediately *ordered* to quit the room.\* Here the noble Lord applied to

\* Here it first occurred to me, that any advocate of the unfortunate Mary Neal must expect no lenity; nor was I undeceived by the treatment which an honest citizen in South  
George's-

to Mr. Sheriff Tweedy, asking if he was not now satisfied of the child's guilt: to which the Sheriff answered, "that he had left home that morning with a strong impression of Lewellin's innocence, and of the child's guilt; that his opinion was now beginning to change, from the behaviour of the parties."\*

Alderman Exshaw and I here observed that, as Fanny Murray's evidence was totally done away, we had better hear Kitty Duff, who was called in and confronted with Mary Neal, with whom Duff claimed an acquaintance, alledging that they had lived in the same house at the same time, that they frequented bad houses together, and that they had been very intimate;†  
for

George's-street experienced. Mr. Brady seeing a croud in the street about the door of the house where Neal had formerly lodged, enquired the reason, and learning it, came into the room in which we sat, and told us he could give some information; being politely requested to tell what he knew of the Neals, he declared that he had known them some years, and that they were extremely honest, though very poor; and that Kitty Duff, whose evidence we were now canvassing, was an idle hussy; he was immediately taken up with "Sir, you have obtruded yourself on us, a champion of chastity; if you have no further information to give us, you may leave the room."

\* This declaration of the High Sheriff I look on as the best answer I can give to the assertion that "he appeared cold upon the business," even before this visit to the House of Industry

† Mary Neal denied any intimacy with K. Duff, but confessed that she had seen her in the streets and at the trial of Lewellin—this Duff *positively denied*; however I can prove that she did attend in the very dress that Mary Neal described  
her

for the truth of this last assertion she referred to Alice Delany, who lived in Great George's-street, and who knew Neal. Mary Neal denied all these circumstances, except an acquaintance with Alice Delany, who she said was "a good girl and would not be acquainted with such as Duff;" being asked why she formed a bad opinion of Duff, she answered that "any body who looked in her face could see she was a bad girl."\* Kitty Duff also mentioned that she had been in Mary Neal's company at the rooms of a gentleman of the College, whom she named, and who was in town; that a hairdresser, whom she called Jack, was present, dressing a gentleman's hair, and that he knew Mary Neal very well. This being the only part of the *incontrovertible proofs*, that remained to be examined, we adjourned to Great George's-street, to the house in which Neal had formerly lived; here we found Alice Delany,† alluded to by Duff,

her to have worn; but I will not attempt to assign the reason that made Mrs. Lewellin's Solicitor deem it *unnecessary* to bring Kitty Duff forward, who might have been a very material witness.

\* It did not require any great sagacity to discover that, as Duff was highly painted, and behaved in such a manner as to disgust most of the gentlemen present.

† Alice Delany not having said much that tended to invalidate what Mary Neal had declared, or which could substantiate what Kitty Duff asserted, we did not give her much attention; still less would we have paid her, had we known that, under the mask of friendly concern she, previous to this enquiry, had been to visit Mary Neal, very particular and inquisitive, and that, immediately after delivering her *testimony*, she was to be sent to the country, as her mother declared to Mr. Hamilton Rowan and me.

*accidentally*

*accidentally* standing in the entry. She was brought up stairs, when she declared, that she knew Mary Neal, and Kitty Duff, and had seen them speak together, but that they were not intimate; that at the time Neal lodged in Great George's-street, Kitty Duff lodged in the same house, with a Mrs. Mc. Mahon, whom we found to have been a washer-woman of Mrs. Lewellin, and to have removed from Great George's-street to Drury-lane. Thither Mr. S., the gentleman, whose friend had *accidentally* discovered Duff and Murray, proposed going, directed by Alice Delany, and promised to bring Mrs. Mc. Mahon with him; however tho' Mr. S. acknowledged to have conversed with her, she did not appear 'till the 25th of November, near three weeks after this period, when she *voluntarily* went before Alderman Warren to make an affidavit, that now comes forth as one of the *incontrovertible proofs* of M. Neal's guilt\*. To this affidavit of Mc. Mahon, I shall only answer, that there are people ready to prove, if proof were necessary, that Duff and M. Neal never lodged in the same house together—one of them is the son of the woman, to

\* This Honora Mc. Mahon was in some few weeks after, in the month of January, taken up in the streets as a Maniac, and confined for the space of six weeks in those wards at the House of Industry, appropriated to the most outrageously mad, hand-cuffed and chained to her bed; on getting some change for the better, she was removed to the other wards and dismissed the house the last week in March. About the time she swore this affidavit, from her conduct to me, I had no reason to believe her *sane*.

whom

whom Neal paid rent for his room, and who being nearly of the same age with Duff, knew her and Mary Neal perfectly well. As to Bridget Delany, the mother of Alice, who after eleven months comes forward to make another *voluntary* affidavit, she declared in the presence of Mr. H. Rowan in a shop in Great George's-street, last November, that she "believed Mary Neal to be a very well behaved child, and that she told her she had been abused"—let the Public compare this assertion with her affidavit\*.

From Great George's-street we proceeded to the College, to the room of the gentleman, named by K. Duff. This gentleman corroborated her testimony, so far as it related to the presence of a second girl in the room, and of Jack the Hair-dresser. We found some difficulty in prevailing on him to attend us, the High Sheriff being under the necessity of going for him. This man Kitty Duff declared to be the Hair-dresser alluded to, and who dressed a gentleman's hair in the presence of Neal's daughter, whom Duff asserted he knew, and who "called him names and threw nut shells at him while he was dressing the gentleman's hair." All this Jack the Hair-dresser denied, affirming

\* It has been asked why B. Delany was not produced at the trial of Lewellin; I will answer; I knew nothing of the particulars of what Mary Neal had sworn in her examination against Lewellin, therefore could not know Mrs. Delany to be necessary; but Mr. Hunt I believed to be essentially so, as he had first examined the Child.

that

that it was she (Kitty Duff) who threw the shells at him and "blackguarded" him: that the other girl, whom he did not know, had her cloak about her face; that Kitty told him afterwards her name was Neal. That he knew John Neal the Hair-dresser, but did not know his daughter.

The gentleman of the College having then declared that he believed he could identify the Neal, who had been in his room, it was proposed by Alderman Exshaw that we should all return to the house of Industry, whither this gentleman offered to accompany us: this seemed to meet the ideas of every one present, untill the gentleman being requested to describe her person, said that, as nearly as he could recollect, "her hair was dark, combed down on her forehead,\* her complexion rather fair, a flushed cheek, and her nose prominent;" this description not *exactly* tallying with the *light brown hair*, the *fallow pale complexion*, and the *flat nose* of the Mary Neal, with whom we had parted with an hour ago at the house of Industry, our second visit was objected to, "as *sufficient proofs* of Mary Neal's guilt had appeared to ground an application for mercy on." It is however to be remarked, that Mary Neal was *honoured* with a second visit the next day, no sort of information of it

\* This description, still fresh on the memories of the Alderman and the High Sheriff, perfectly obliterated any shadow of doubt, which could have dwelt on the mind of any of us.

being

being given to Mr. Sheriff Tweedy, Alderman Exshaw or me; but as Providence frequently converts the greatest misfortunes into blessings, to this second visit it is owing, that she is not at this moment unprotected, without a friendly roof to shelter her, pining perhaps under want and disease; for such has been the villainy and perseverance of her Enemies, that ere this she most probably would be reduced to eat the bread of infamy, an outcast of society, had not a paragraph in one of the morning papers, giving some account of this visit raised for her a Protector in the person of A. Hamilton Rowan, Esq; a man perhaps better qualified for that office, than most men, by his philanthropy, his fortune, and his manly and persevering intrepidity. His fellow citizens have approved of his conduct, in a manner equally honourable to him and to themselves.

This last investigation in the College cleared up all the High Sheriffs doubts—on his Lordship requiring him to accompany him to the Marquis to solicit mercy, Mr. Tweedy refused, alledging that, “as he had nothing favourable of Lewellin to mention, he did not wish to say any thing which might avert that mercy, so strongly and so warmly solicited.” These were the sentiments of a humane and upright magistrate, just come into office, and little acquainted with the particulars of the business; who that morning had left home under impressions favourable to Lewellin, from her solemn asseverations at that period, the most awful to humanity,  
and

and the confident declarations of her friends; nor were these impressions entirely effaced until those proofs, brought forward by her zealous advocates, established the innocence of Mary Neal *incontrovertibly beyond a doubt*—then, and not till then, did he absolutely refuse his Lordship, protesting that he believed Mary Neal as innocent as his own daughter, a child only *four years old*.” This conversation happened in his Lordship’s carriage, where very curious language was held out to Mr. Tweedy, viz. “That Alderman Exshaw had biased me, and that we were both afraid of a prosecution, should the woman obtain a pardon; but the High Sheriff was authorised to tell me, (no mention being made of Alderman Exshaw) that I need be under no apprehensions, as mercy was the only object that the friends of Lewellin aimed at. I acknowledge myself deeply indebted to those worthy characters concerned in her favour, for the lenity intended me, but I leave it to the candour of the public to determine how far a man is treated with lenity, whose dearest connections are dragged forward with the names of prostitutes, whose veracity is impeached without a shadow of truth, and whose name is held up to obloquy and reproach, loaded with all the epithets that inventive malice could suggest. If this be not prosecution with a vengeance I am at a loss what to call it.

Feeling myself hurt by the message delivered to me by the High Sheriff, and conscious of having acted from the purest motives, I waited

on the Nobleman to know what was meant by the message; I was given to understand that a candid and full statement of every thing that had appeared in the course of our enquiry would be drawn up, and his Lordship did me the honour to say that I should see it. His Lordship accordingly appointed a day on which I should meet him at the Police House, where in the presence of Mr. Hamilton Rowan, his Lordship read part of what was called "a memorial intended to be laid before Government." I did there in the presence of Mr. Rowan disavow the statement, in many particulars, where my name was mentioned, and not satisfied that it should be made use of to prove facts to which I could not assent, I wrote to Mr. Fitzherbert, expressing a wish to be permitted to explain myself, in what regarded my interference, if such Memorial were laid before Government. I got no answer nor did I expect one, the Marquis; as I was informed, having at this time *made up his mind*.\* My friends thought this letter sufficiently expressive of my dissent from the statement in the Memorial, as far as it related to me. With the permission of Mr. Rowan I shall here insert the notes that he took after the above conversation, immediately on his return home, as also his letter to Mr. Fitzherbert on the subject.

\* This memorial, as well as I can recollect after an interval of four months, contained many, if not most, of the objectionable parts of the "Narrative on Authority" from which I now dissent, as I did then in the presence of a man of truth and honor.

Extract from a conversation at the Police House,  
between L. — and Dr. B. written im-  
mediately on my return to Henry-street.

November 25.

“ Lord — had desired the attendance of  
“ Dr. Boyton to read to him a detail of some con-  
“ versations, said to have past between them;  
“ Dr. B. said it concerned me, as much as him;  
“ and Lord — took us into a room where he  
“ read a recital of circumstances, preceded by  
“ declarations of being no otherwise concerned  
“ in the fate of Lewellin, than as became a  
“ man, possessed of a fortune in the city, who  
“ was a Magistrate, a Peer, and a Privy Coun-  
“ sellor. In the course of reading the detail  
“ alluded to, Dr. Boyton interrupted his Lord-  
“ ship, declaring that he only related parts of  
“ their conversation, to which his Lordship’s  
“ answer was, “ did you not say so? I do not  
“ enter into what you said afterwards.” Again  
“ the Dr. declaring his Lordship must have  
“ misunderstood him, as the things he asserted  
“ to have been repeated by Dr. B. were the most  
“ foreign from his meaning. At length his  
“ Lordship came to some trifling circumstance,  
“ which I do not recollect, and which his  
“ Lordship expressed a readiness to erase, and  
“ was going to do so, when I, who had been  
“ silent before, could not avoid interfering, by  
“ saying, unless his Lordship and Dr. Boyton  
“ agreed on the whole report, it could answer  
“ no good purpose to alter any part.”

A. H. R.  
Copy

Copy of a letter of A. H. R. to the Right Hon.  
 ALLEYNE FTZHERBERT.

November 26th, 1788.

S I R,

I am concerned to intrude thus often on you, but I should hold myself inconsistent if I did not give you some recital of what passed between L. ——— and Dr. Boyton in my presence yesterday. I beg leave to repeat that I have no other enmity to the unfortunate culprit, than is excited by what I look upon as a continuation of her crime, the persevering in defaming innocence, and as I had the honor of saying to my L. ——— yesterday, as long as the guilt of the child is made the basis for Royal Clemency, I will combat it with all the force of truth which I can collect. I am neither impertinent nor ignorant enough, some might add cruel enough, to attempt to avert mercy, but as long as I have breath I will protect her whom I believe innocent, and who has no other support. To return, the parts which made the greatest impression on me, in the course of a hasty reading of a paper, which I understand is to be laid before Government, are, His Lordship claims mercy as his right, not as a favour, and he mentions, First, That Mrs. B. from her conversation with the child thought ill of her. Second, An assertion of Mr. Peele, one of the Surgeons who examined the child. Third, That a friend of Dr. Boyton said he had had Mary Neal at Lewellin's.

First, Mrs. B. was uneasy when the time of Lewellin's execution approached, because the  
 Dr.

Dr. had stood forward at her prosecution, and informed Sir S. Bradstreet of the situation of the parents, and was therefore the efficient cause of her condemnation; she had heard reports propagated to the discredit of the child, and altho she disregarded them herself, she wished Dr. Boyton to inform himself that he might be enabled to assist in saving her whose prosecution he had prevented being dismissed for want of evidence; that in hopes of finding some alleviating circumstances, which would allow him to stand forward a second time, he attended my Lord ——— and others, and begs leave to refer you to a letter\* from him to me, which I had the honor of leaving with you on the 19th Inst. for the issue of the enquiry. Second, Mr. Peele's assertion was not aggravated, as L. ——— mentioned; but Mr. Peele did not then know that the child had been examined by several other gentlemen, prior to his examination of her, and that two of those gentlemen were present at his examination; and that he now declares he is no longer surpris'd at the behaviour of the child. Third, As to the acquaintance of any friend of Dr. Boyton's with Mary Neal, the Dr. in as moderate but as firm a manner as his differing in opinion with a Peer and a Privy Counsellor permitted him, denied the circumstance, and said the fact was too highly colored, and related only in part; and also claimed a right of dissenting from many

\* This letter is a brief detail of what I have given at full length in the narrative.

parts of the said paper, and of explaining and  
expatiating upon others, which I find he has  
done by letter\* to you,

I am, Sir, &c. &c.

[Copy.]

A. H. ROWAN.

Such has been the conduct, and such the  
particulars of interviews and declarations, that  
have called down on me and the other gentle-  
men concerned, torrents of abuse, unmerited  
and indiscriminate censure. Conscious of the  
rectitude of my intentions, and of being actu-  
ated by no other motives, than humanity and a  
love of justice, I would have disregarded what  
I consider *party virulence*, especially coming  
from an anonymous writer, had not my friends  
thought it peculiarly incumbent on me to justify  
myself to the Public by stating minutely those  
facts that have fallen immediately within my own  
knowledge, but I shall certainly disregard any  
further *anonymous* publication on the subject.

Fleet-street,  
April 6th, 1789.

J. W. BOYTON.

\* This alludes to the short letter that I wrote to Mr.  
F—— expressing my dissent from the statement read to me  
in Mr. Rowan's presence.

F I N I S.



